

From: felix@crowfix.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/16/02 10:01pm
Subject: This proposed settlement is a disgraceful sellout

I want you to think for a minute about the PC you are probably using to read this very email. Think about all the components in it -- sound card, graphics card, disk drive, memory, motherboard, CPUs, monitor, printer. Not a single one of those is produced by a monopoly. Even the CPU; odds are it comes from Intel, and even if so, Intel is not nearly the monopoly Microsoft is.

Most of the apologists for Microsoft jabber on about how the Operating System has to be controlled by a single company, standards, etc etc etc. Why does not that same logic apply to the hardware itself? You'd think there would be far more reason for monopolies there, both legal and practical. Yet no one worries even a bit about who makes the monitor or graphics card, or puzzles about the mystery of how they work together.

So why have you disemboweled yourself for Microsoft? The Unix world should be proof enough that no single OS is necessary. Add in Apple. Add in the fact that Microsoft OSES are far more fragmented than any random collection of Unix OSES.

There are tons of horror stories about Microsoft stomping out competition. The few examples you brought out in the trial barely touch the surface.

There are tons of stories of Microsoft barely staying within the law, and many times stepping far outside it. Did you not learn a thing from the famously fraudulent video they lied about under oath, led about from one end of their empire to the other?

Have you not learned anything about Bill Gates' business ethics from the previous many court appearances and settlements?

And now this crock of settlement has a toothless, indeed gumless, oversight committee. Are you so naive to expect any changes at all out of Microsoft?

Good gosh! They have \$36 billion in cash, increasing \$1.5 billion per month. They are stomping on game consoles, they are stomping on cable TV, they are stomping on handhelds, they are stomping on anybody and everybody and their dog.

And the best you can come up with is a disgraceful sellout.

It amazes me that you can sign your name to this garbage and not hide

your face in public.

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I've found a solution to Fermat's Last Theorem but I see I've run out of room o